

# J<sup>♥</sup> Shrewsbury School Journal

Serving a community of continuous learners

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## Superintendent's Corner

# The state of our school district

DR. JOSEPH M. SAWYER  
SUPERINTENDENT

At the inaugural School Committee meeting for the current school year, I made a presentation describing what I saw as the current state of our school district. I thought it appropriate to use this column to share my reflections with the community.

Last year, the School Committee established four strategic priorities: engaging and challenging all students; promoting health and wellness; enhancing learning through technology; and increasing value to the community. During the coming year, our school district will be focused on a variety of initiatives related to these priorities, including improving students' acquisition of writing skills through our Shrewsbury Writing Project; advancing our technology initiatives by providing iPad tablets to all Sherwood Middle School students and interactive white boards for many elementary school classes; continuing our federally funded physical education grant program, The Get Fit Adventure; and expanding opportunities for students to provide community service. At

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**New hires, technology program launch, new school lunch regulations, student news and service learning update**

inside • pages 4, 5, & 7

**Summer Institute, The Party in the Garden, MVP program and the Walter J. Paton documentary**



Pictured above is Michael Bonhomme, a Sherwood Middle School student on the 5 Silver Team with his dad Anthony. Michael is holding his newly operational iPad after attending the iPad Initiative Orientation Program. Turn to page 2 for the student written article on this new initiative.

*“Coming together is a beginning,  
staying together is progress,  
and working together is success.”*

~ Henry Ford ~

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Pictured above on August 28, 2012, the first day of the new school year is Karin Freeman, Beal Early Childhood Center secretary, helping kindergarten student Noelle Sowden find her way. For most students this was their first experience riding a school bus to begin their first day.

## Opportunities and challenges ahead

ERIN CANZANO  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

When asked how they felt about school starting, my children all returned the same answer: conflicted. They look forward to the beginning of a new year, returning to see friends, and meeting new teachers, but they miss the slower pace that summer allows, the lack of a schedule, and the opportunities for vacations.

It's the same way I feel for the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. On one hand, Sherwood Middle School students are the first to have one-on-one iPad devices for their classroom instruction. I predict that their opportunities for learning and collaborating will revolutionize the way in which we effectively teach our students. iPad pilot teams at Oak Middle School and the High School will also provide a wealth of knowledge to administrators so that they will be prepared in the coming years to be ready to make the shift to one-on-one devices. We are at a pivotal crossroads in education, and Shrewsbury Public Schools will be ready to guide its students to their futures.

Also, the School Committee welcomed a new member who only a brief five years ago graduated from Shrewsbury High School.

Jason Palitsch became the youngest School Committee member in the town's history in May of 2012. His age is an asset, as he provides valuable perspective on what is being required for our graduates to be successful and competitive in college and in the work force. Along with Jason, the school committee will draw upon its diverse and varied perspectives in Dr. Dale Magee, John Samia, Sandy Fryc, and myself. It will be a strong and effective team that takes on the biggest challenge facing the district: budget.

For as you know, this year class sizes in grades 4-8 are at their all-time high of 29-30, with many sections at the high school experiencing similar class sizes and fewer elective opportunities. We are at a crossroads here in Shrewsbury as we decide what our needs and expectations are for the education of our students. Do we accept that due to budget constraints that class sizes will remain at 29-30 for an indeterminate amount of time? Or do we rally together to discuss solutions, both traditional and non-traditional, to restore to the district the ability to effectively prepare students for their futures? It will be a conflicted year with both successes and challenges facing it, and it will be essential that you help us to answer those questions, and to provide input and feedback to us as we navigate our way through another harrowing budget cycle.



# The state of...

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the same time, we will be preparing to meet significant new state mandates, including piloting a new educator evaluation program, adapting to new regulations regarding the education of English language learners, and working through the challenges presented by stringent new nutrition guidelines for school meals. These, of course, are just some of our more high profile initiatives – there are many more happening in classrooms across our nine schools, not to mention the fact that we will likely move almost 1,000 fifth and sixth graders into a brand new Sherwood Middle School sometime this winter (a project that is well ahead of schedule and well under budget).

While we are focused on finding

**“Our district’s overall challenge is to adapt to a rapidly changing environment that requires new approaches, in a heavily regulated sector, with resource uncertainty.”**

ways to improve an already very strong school system, we are also coping with challenges due to our limited resources. As of the opening of school, 100% of our classes in grades 4-8 have more students than recommended by our class size policy, with most averaging 28-29 students and some with 30. Many high school sections are also beyond recommended sizes, as are some early grade classes. We are operating with a shared principal between Beal and Paton, and we lost 50% of our curriculum leadership at the middle school level. Not only are our classrooms crowded, we also face significant constraints as to what curriculum, instruction, and technology materials we can purchase and what training we can provide to educators – and because funding has been scarce in these categories over the past few years, we are experiencing pent up demand for resources and training. This is not only necessary to meet new or ongoing mandates, but also to continue the strong work we’ve been doing for many years, as well as to respond to changes in how education is best provided. In my remarks to the School Committee I suggested that our district’s overall challenge is to adapt to a rapidly changing environment that requires new approaches, in a heavily regulated sector, with resource uncertainty.

Because of that resource uncertainty, the School Committee asked that

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# Technology program launched

JONATHAN KELLY  
& OLIVIA MEUSE  
SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS  
SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

This summer, Sherwood Middle School began the process of providing the opportunity for all 5th and 6th grade students an iPad to be used in school this year. Starting on August 21st, students and their parents attended orientation sessions at Shrewsbury High School to receive a new school-issued iPad, or to register their existing iPad with the school. Families pay a \$165 annual fee to take home a school-owned iPad or a \$40 fee for the “apps” on a family-owned iPad.

At each orientation session, students set up their school e-mail accounts, school Apple IDs, and registered their iPad with the school’s management system. Students also put in special apps just for school, and a “controller” that controls the iPads’ cameras and FaceTime. Other apps that will be used for

school are Pages, Notability, My Homework, Doodle Buddy, iBooks, Numbers, Keynote, iMovie, and Garage Band. Many students have already used these apps, and are finding them very helpful!

Each session was busy, with 50 - 80 families at each one. Students and families were very

excited to get this new learning tool.

Students have been bringing their iPads to school since the second day of school, and are learning how to use their



Pictured above in the bottom left foreground during the iPad Orientation is sixth grade student Kate Mooney with her father, and Jonathan Crutchfield and his mother are pictured in the upper right corner.



Pictured at left in the foreground is sixth grade student Samantha Yard and her mother checking in with staff members at one of the orientation sessions.

educational apps in the classroom. Students are gaining expertise from the teacher and from each other. Teachers really have been wonderful with our brand new iPad system, and really taking advantage of this new tool.

The iPad initiative has been a great experience for Sherwood Middle School already, and the school community looks forward to an exciting school year with our iPads.

# New leadership in human resources

DR. JOSEPH M. SAWYER  
SUPERINTENDENT

There is no question that the success of our school district is tied to the quality of the people who educate our students. Ensuring that we hire the best possible people and providing a positive and professional working environment is crucial. In Shrewsbury, the person who orchestrates all of this is the Director of Human Resources. The responsibilities of this senior leadership position are numerous including:

- directing all hiring to ensure both quality and compliance with myriad state licensing requirements;
- ensuring that our supervision and evaluation process is focused on helping all educators improve while ensuring that mediocre performance is addressed appropriately;
- leading collective bargaining negotiations with employee associations on behalf of the School Committee;
- maintaining strong lines of

communication with those employee groups in order to address issues before they become larger concerns; and managing the typical human resource needs of an approximately 700 employee organization, such as medical and maternity leaves, workman’s compensation, employee assistance, etc. One can see that this is an ex-

tremely important role, and it was done expertly by Tom Kennedy for 12 years prior to his retirement at the end of June. I am very pleased that his successor, Barbara Malone, is already performing excellent work that is helping our district advance its strategic priorities. Ms. Malone is an experienced human resources professional with a successful track record in the private sector. She sought this new opportunity as a way to combine her professional expertise with a longstanding interest in public service, and in public education in particular.

Ms. Malone is a graduate of UMass-Amherst who also holds a master of Human Resources from Keller Graduate School of Management at DeVry University. Since she joined us in July, she has demonstrated key traits for success, including a strong work ethic, excellent communication skills, and insightful problem solving. As superintendent, I am confident that our district will benefit greatly from Ms. Malone’s expertise and commitment. We are fortunate to have someone of her caliber in this pivotal leadership role.



Pictured above is Barbara A. Malone, Director of Human Resources for Shrewsbury Public Schools.

## Shrewsbury School Journal

The non-profit Shrewsbury School Journal is published three times a year and reaches every household in the diverse and growing town of Shrewsbury. It is published by the central office of the Shrewsbury Public Schools with the help and expertise of many individuals. The mission of the Shrewsbury School Journal is to provide an accurate source of information about our school system and the town in which we live. We hope to foster a community of continuous learners.

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer  
Superintendent

Mary Beth Banios  
Assistant Superintendent

Kimberlee Cantin  
Project Coordinator/Designer



# New hires support strategic priorities

BARBARA A. MALONE  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Last year, the School Committee adopted a set of five-year strategic priorities that focus our efforts to improve by engaging and challenging all students, promoting health and wellbeing, enhancing learning through technology, and increasing our value to the community. These strategic priorities are accomplished through the efforts of dedicated and engaged staff throughout Shrewsbury Public Schools. This year we welcome 13 new educators/administrators to join the current team in fulfilling our goals, living our values, and accomplishing our mission, while focusing on these strategic priorities. I am very excited and honored to be one of the new staff supporting Shrewsbury Public School’s goals, values, mission, and strategic priorities, as I replace retiring Director of Human Resources, Thomas M. Kennedy. I owe a great debt to Mr. Kennedy for creating a smooth and supportive transition. Our new educators were part of a rigorous selection process including interviews with principals, department directors, teachers, parents, and Central Office administrators. As the district actually cut many positions due to a

difficult budget, it should be noted that these educators are replacing teachers and administrators who have retired, resigned, been non-renewed, or who are on a school year leave of absence. In addition to interviews, these new educators also provided a demonstration lesson in the classroom, where students provided the district feedback on their thoughts and observations. While some positions are filled before the close of school in June, many positions were filled during the summer. Thank you to all of the staff, parents, and students who assisted us with these summer interviews and demonstration lessons. All of our new staff attended an orientation program on August 23 and each one was assigned a mentor to prepare and support them in their new role in Shrewsbury Public Schools. The 13 newly hired staff has a range of experience from “career changers” and individuals with deep experience, to those who are earlier in their career. Of these 13 new hires three have previously worked in our district as substitutes or in other roles. Two bring us their talents and ideas from out of state. Two-thirds of these appointments were of individuals holding a master’s degree and one individual holds a law degree. In

addition to these 13 new hires one educator, Jayne Wilkin, has agreed to serve as principal in two different schools and Lisa McCubrey, former Assistant Principal at Floral Street School, has been promoted to Principal at Floral Street School. Besides the staff listed below, other positions have also been filled, including substitute teachers, paraprofessional aides and technicians and technology support staff. No new positions were added in these areas either, as these were all replacement positions for vacancies.

**Central Office**  
**Barbara A. Malone**, Director of Human Resources  
B.A. University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Master of Human Resource Management, Keller Graduate School

**District**  
**Patricia McCaffrey**, Lead Nurse  
B.S. University of New Hampshire  
M.S. Boston College

**High School**  
**William Bertoni**, Physical Education and Phys Ed Grant Project Assistant  
B.S. University of Massachusetts Boston

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# New hires

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M.Ed. Bridgewater State University  
**Tracy Calabresi**  
Instructional Technology Teacher  
B.S. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
J.D. Boston University School of Law  
**Todd Foster**  
Special Education Teacher  
B.A. University of Massachusetts Amherst  
M.S. Simmons College  
**Nga Huynh**  
Guidance Director  
B.A. Wellesley College  
Ed. M Harvard University  
M.Ed. Boston College  
**Brittany McNally**  
Physical Education Teacher  
B.S. Springfield College  
**Liza Trombley**  
English Department Director  
B.A. University of Connecticut  
M.A. American University

**Oak Middle School**  
**Kristin Franger**  
School Nurse  
B.S. University of New Hampshire  
**Amy Ritter Knox**  
Mathematics Teacher  
B.S. Grove City College

**Beal Early Childhood Center**  
**Jayne Wilkin**  
Principal of Beal and Paton  
B.A. Clark University  
M.A. Assumption College  
CAGS Assumption College  
M.A. Educational Leadership, Fitchburg State College

**Parker Road Preschool**  
**Kristin Stewich**  
School Nurse  
B.S. University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Coolidge School**  
**Marci Rubin**  
Kindergarten Teacher  
B.A. Franklin Pierce College  
M. Ed. Cambridge College

**Floral Street School**  
**Cara Demoga**  
School Psychologist  
B.A. University of Vermont  
M.A. Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology  
**Tiffany Day**  
Assistant Principal  
B.S. University of Maine  
Master of School Administration  
University of North Carolina  
**Lisa McCubrey**  
Principal (formerly Assistant Principal at Floral Street School)  
B.S. Worcester State University  
M.S. Worcester State University

Compiled with input from outgoing Director of HR, Thomas M. Kennedy

# Excellence

CONTINUED from left

emphifies the qualities of Tom Kennedy, who served the district with distinction for 12 years as its first Director of Human Resources. These qualities include:

- dedication to doing the best job possible by regularly going above and beyond one’s required duties
- demonstration of empathy and understanding for others while simultaneously promoting accountability to the district’s high standards
- contributing to the district in ways that enhance the quality of its culture
- acting with the utmost professionalism regardless of circumstances.

CONTINUED, at right



Pictured above is Nga Huynh, Director of Guidance at SHS.



Pictured above is the new leadership team at Floral Street School. Lisa McCubrey, Principal on the left and Tiffany Day, Assistant Principal on the right.



Pictured above is Liza Trombley, English Department Director at SHS.

# Recognizing excellence



Pictured above with their awards after the opening day assembly from left to right are Loubaina Buxamusa, Gina-Marie Kelly, Kara Frankian, Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Ryan Middlesworth, Christina Bielunis, Jane Lizotte, Erica McMahon and Catherine Shaw.

Since becoming superintendent, Dr. Joseph Sawyer has promoted the importance of recognizing outstanding performance on the part of students and staff. Each year, at the opening day assembly of all staff members, he presents Superintendent’s Awards to staff members who have “provided extraordinary service to the Shrewsbury Public Schools.” The awards, which

are a surprise to the recipients, are the highlight of the morning. This year, the recipients were:  
Loubaina Buxamusa - Parker Road Preschool  
Kara Frankian and Gina-Marie Kelly - Floral Street School teachers.  
Christina Bielunis, Erica McMahon, Ryan Middlesworth and Catherine Shaw, 6 White Team at Sherwood Middle

School.  
The first Thomas M. Kennedy Award, named after the recently retired Human Resources Director, was presented to Jane Lizotte, Principal of Sherwood Middle School. This award will be given annually to a Shrewsbury Public Schools staff member who ex-



# The state of...

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the budget for next year become a topic of discussion immediately, and so the budget for Fiscal Year 2014 has been addressed at both of their first two meetings. This included a very early projection that it would take approximately \$4.56 million in new funding to move the educational program forward while bringing back the teaching and administrative positions lost to cuts in recent times. To be clear, this was not a budget request, but rather an attempt to illustrate the magnitude of our challenge using early data to help inform the process. Going forward, not only will we be lobbying at the state level for adequate funding streams, but the district will also be attempting to find new, alternative sources of revenue, including seeking new sponsorships and developing a capital fundraising campaign.

While challenges abound, I think that there is cause for optimism. I believe that there is much evidence that, overall, we have terrific students, a talented and committed staff, cooperative relationships with municipal and public safety departments, and supportive parents and community members. I believe that we have the right strategic priorities, and that we have the right people to implement them. However, we are stretched thin in too many places. In order to achieve our strategic goals and maintain the very high quality school district that our community enjoys, we will need to reverse the recent trend and find ways to restore resources.

The School Committee wants to hear from students, parents, community members, and educators regarding their questions or concerns about the district's fiscal situation, so they have scheduled a public budget hearing, to be held during their meeting on the evening of October 24, starting at 7:00pm in the Oak Middle School auditorium. Please do consider attending and sharing your perspective. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact the School Committee or me. You can find School Committee contact information on our web site at <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov>, while you can reach me by calling the School Department at 508-841-8400 or by sending an e-mail to [jsawyer@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:jsawyer@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us).

I think it bears repeating: We have an excellent plan and we've got great people to implement it, but we're stretched thin. I look forward to working with the School Committee and with all of the district's stakeholders to ensure that the state of our district remains strong for the benefit of everyone in our community.

## Save the date

For two upcoming events sponsored by the Shrewsbury Education Foundation (SEF).

**John P. Collins Awards for Excellence**

Watch for your opportunity to nominate someone who has made a difference for our schools. The John P. Collins Awards nomination flyers will be available on October 29, 2012. Look for announcements in the Community Bulletin, your school's weekly list serv notices and on the Shrewsbury Education Foundation website

**Trivia Night** is coming on November 9, 2012. Check SEF's website for details.

# Innovative summer learning

MARY BETH BANIOS  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

When the school year ended for students last June 12th, more than 135 Shrewsbury teachers headed back into classrooms, this time to enhance their own learning. For the last two weeks of June, the Shrewsbury Public Schools hosted the first annual Shrewsbury Summer Institute, which was designed to support teachers in their efforts to create learning environments that reflect the changing educational landscape. This landscape is being transformed through personal electronic devices,

**The structure of the institute utilized a number of "21st century" learning strategies.**

access to digital content, increased opportunities for collaboration, and global connectivity. When attending the Summer Institute, teachers could choose from eight graduate level courses including Creating Digital Content, The Flipped Classroom (a secondary level instructional model that involves receiving direction instruction via video for homework, and using classroom time for application of concepts), Teaching the Elementary Grades with Technology, Global Education, and Building Effective Teams through Teacher Leadership. In partnering with Anna Maria College, participants in the Institute could choose to receive three graduate credits for completion of these courses. The offering of graduate

credit from Anna Maria college made the institute a viable choice for professional development for teachers from other districts. Out of district teachers who attended were charged tuition, and this money helped to offset some of the costs associated with the Institute.

The structure of the institute utilized a number of "21st century" learning strategies. All courses included some portion of the course online prior to the actual meeting

**"...I worked with my school based team to relate the learning to our school community - this was very powerful."**

dates, and included opportunities for teacher to collaborate digitally by sharing electronic resources both within and between the eight courses. In addition, after teachers had an opportunity to interact with the national-level presenters for direct instruction, they were then provided with time

to collaborate with colleagues on a self-identified project that they felt would directly benefit their work as an educator. During the collaboration time, teachers in each class were also supported by an in-district facilitator who ran the online

portion of the class and consulted with participants as they worked on their self-directed projects. The feedback we received from teachers around their experiences with the Institute was very strong, and included the following comments: "Being able to find ways to integrate Global Education into what we were already doing was so valuable! I was able to work with two other teachers from my school on our collaboration day to plan a way to use children's literature as a way to reinforce our school's core values while still addressing the issues of global education and awareness." "I worked with my school based team to relate the learning to our school community - this was very powerful. We got to share



Pictured above are teachers attending the Creating Digital Content class at the high school during the Summer Institute this past June.

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# "The Man Behind the School"

ERICA BODDEN  
PARENT AND RESIDENT

Raise your hand if you know the Walter J. Paton Elementary School. Okay, now raise your hand if you know who Walter J. Paton is. Not too many. That's what I thought.

Which is why, ten years ago, I set out to learn about Walter Paton. After all, my oldest, Michael, was a student at the school and I was Co-President of Paton's PTO.

Inspired by Coolidge School's "Calvin Coolidge Day", I decided that Paton needed a "Walter J. Paton Day" so we would know about the person for whom our school was named.

So, I started asking questions. One of them led me to the late Abbie Shepard Larson who was a student of Mr. Paton's when he was a math teacher at Beal when it was the high school. Not only did she share memories of being his student, but

she also remembered that he had three children, one of whom wrote a book, *Feathers and Fur*. I found the book and from there, was able to contact Mr. Paton's daughter, Ann Paton McGrath.

What a pleasure to meet her. My

she gave me a framed collection of letters about her dad, which had hung over her mantle for years. I accepted on behalf of the Shrewsbury community and it still graces the lobby of Paton School.

Thanks to the efforts and support of the faculty and staff of Paton School, "Walter J. Paton Day" was celebrated on what would have been Mr. Paton's 100th birthday, June 4, 2004.

It was a wonderful event with stories and songs about Mr. Paton and celebrating the men and women who serve our country in the military, for Mr. Paton was killed in action during World War II.

But I felt like I needed to do more so that all of Shrewsbury would remember Lt. Col. Walter J. Paton. So I went back to visit his daughter with my friend, Kelly Dupuis, and a video camera. We spent the



Pictured above at the premier of the documentary "Walter J. Paton - The Man Behind the School" from l-r are: Tom and Ann McGrath, grandson and daughter of Walter J. Paton, Erica Bodden and Darius Corcoran. Walter J. Paton Movie Night took place at Shrewsbury Media Connection, 15 Parker Road, Shrewsbury, MA. this past August.

family and I went to her house in New Hampshire and it was like a reunion. She had some of her family there and we had a cookout as she shared stories about her dad. At the end of our visit,

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# “Today’s Special”- new meal regulations

A.J.HARRIS  
SHS SENIOR

“When two-thirds of Americans are overweight,” says SHS senior Ian Gansler “that’s when you have to make some changes.” Policy makers on Capitol Hill and on Beacon Hill agree, and cafeterias across the state and country are feeling the effects of some new regulations.

The Hunger Free Kids Act is a guideline set forth by the USDA to be phased in over the course of the next three years. Changes under this guideline include

**First Lady Michelle Obama has adopted a strong stance against childhood obesity, and the President has made the statement that, “We want the food they get at school to be the same kind of food we would serve at our own kitchen tables.”**

smaller portions, caloric limits, and vegetable requirements. This policy marks the first impactful nationwide reform of school lunch programs in over a decade, and health experts at the School Nutrition Association herald it as the seminal children’s nutritional event in recent history.

First Lady Michelle Obama has adopted a strong stance against childhood obesity, and the President has made the statement that, “We want the food they get at school to be the same kind of food we would serve at our own kitchen tables.” He is certainly getting closer to this goal with recent reform.

It’s not just at the national level that cafeteria policy is being altered. Massachusetts has released its own set of reforms that are in many ways stricter than the Hunger Free Kids Act. The Massachusetts legislation limits à la carte items to 200 calories, and requires whole wheat foods, as well as smaller servings of milk and juice.

While these new laws definitely improve nutrition, they are not without detractors. The school year has just begun, but already the roots of an organized protest are growing. Christian Capalbo, a junior at SHS, has created the Facebook group “Revolution Against Lunch Policies,” which boasts nearly one hundred members after only one week. He plans to gather support, discuss the issue with state representatives, and attend town meetings so he can voice the opinions of his group. There is talk on the page of a “National Bring Your Lunch Day.”

Such cafeteria revolts are not

unique to Shrewsbury. In Los Angeles and Chicago last year entire schools refused to eat their healthy lunches, and simply threw the food away. In these schools junk-food black-markets sprouted up.

While it is doubtful that Capalbo’s “Revolution” will grow to the size of the protests in LA, a group of one hundred students not buying lunch could be problematic for the

**Massachusetts has released its own set of reforms that are in many ways stricter than the Hunger Free Kids Act.**

Shrewsbury food service program. Beth Nichols, Food Service Director in Shrewsbury says that every year it takes hard work for Shrewsbury cafeterias to break even. The high school depends on 95% of students buying some sort of food item daily. A large group of boycotters could seriously upset this delicate balance. If the school struggles to meet expenses they will look to reduce expenses by purchasing cheap, healthy, government provided food. In this way the protesters would only seal their leafy green fate. Perhaps the best course of action is to do what our mothers have been telling us for centuries, just eat our veggies.

# Innovative

CONTINUED from page 4

strengths and really pinpoint areas of growth. We were a mix of roles - different grade levels, principal, instructional coach so we had many different lenses as we discussed ideas about moving forward.” “The most valuable part of this class was learning the new ways to blog information and accessing new technology. We learned new ways to share information among each other and ways to help students of all levels.” “I learned that using the technology to

**“We learned new ways to share information among each other and ways to help students of all levels.”**

create content is not as intimidating as I had initially imagined. Coming into the course I felt that I was so far behind with the latest technology. After the two class days of instruction I was able to get into the creation of content on iBook author.” The Shrewsbury Public Schools intends to continue this model of professional development next year, as it has proven effective in providing our teachers opportunities for high quality training, from national-level presenters, that results in enhanced learning experiences for our students. At the same time, the Institute is designed to maximize our professional development dollars, and to supplement the professional development budget by bringing in outside funding from participants from other districts.

# A “banner day” in the garden

MELANIE PETRUCCI  
GARDEN PARTY HOST COMMITTEE

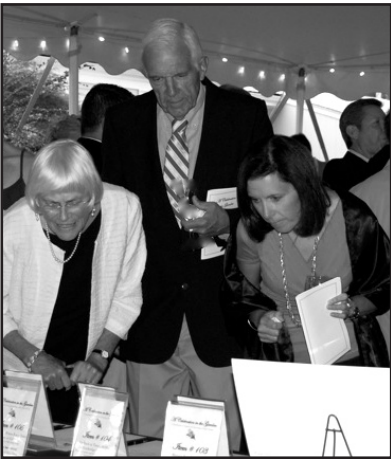
If a phrase were used to describe this year’s Celebration in the Garden Party to benefit Shrewsbury Public Schools, it would be “Banner Year”! Not a rain drop in sight Saturday evening, June 16, 2012 when over 300 community leaders, neighbors and friends gathered for the 4th Annual Celebration in the Garden Party. Banner weather, banner attendance, banner sponsors, banner auction items, and banner proceeds.

The beautiful and historic antique colonial home of Jason and Heather Logrippo served as the perfect backdrop for what has become a signature Shrewsbury event geared toward raising much needed funds to augment school budgets which have been impacted due to many years of budget shortfalls. \$35,000 was raised for Shrewsbury Public Schools and these proceeds are proportionally and equitably distributed among the nine public schools in the district and tangible instructional materials as well as technology enhancements have been made possible through the success of these Garden

Parties.

With colorful decorations, and delicious food and beverage sponsored by Danielson Flowers, Austin Liquors, Excelsior Wines and Consolidated Beverages, Expose Yourself PR, Pepper’s Fine Catering, Cocobeni Confectioners and the Munro family the mood was festive. Attendees enjoyed music from the band “Moss” featuring Shrewsbury Public School dads Steve Grip and John O’Brien sponsored by Beaton Kane Construction. The event flowed effortlessly in the hands of returning Emcee, Peter Blute.

This signature event would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of many local businesses, individuals and families, (many returning for a second or third year): Presenting Sponsor (new this year) - the 15-40 Connection, Proudly Presented by Columbia Tech, a Coghlin Company; Diamond Extraordinaire - J. Briggs & Co.; Celebration - Dunkin Donuts, Hair-Lines for Paul Mitchell Systems; Fallon House - Danielsons Flowers, Lamoureux Pagano & Associates, Wheelabrator Shrewsbury; Music - Beaton Kane Construction; Spirits - Expose Yourself PR!; Beer - Consolidated Beverages;



*Pictured above are attendees taking a look at some of the silent auction items up for bid.*

Champagne - Austin Liquors; Wine - Excelsior Wines; Dessert - CocoBeni Confections & The Munro Family; Signage - The Duprey Family; Garden - Paula & Jim Buonomo, Chacharone & Power Attorneys at Law, Jenny Boston, ReadyMed, Smook Architecture & Urban Design, Weston & Sampson Engineers; Vintage - Arukor Communications, Aurora Exterior Painting, Avidia Bank, Central One Federal Credit Union, Dick & Moira Miller, Joseph J. Cariglia Esq., John & Debbie Lebeaux, Polito Development Corporation, Richard & Alison Ricker, Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union, Webster Five Cents Savings Bank; Benefactors - Tina

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# Not just fun!



*Pictured above are Matt Beckstrom, Class of 2012 and Sean Lambert, Class of 2013 in a scene from the award-winning play “The Outsiders” from last fall. See more information on page 6.*



*Pictured above is Julia Rivard working on a painting during a Summer Extensions class taught by art teacher Deirdre Kunar at the middle school this past July. Look for registration information for summer programs for grades K- 4 (Summer Enrichment) and grades 5-8 (Summer Extensions) in late March or early April on our website.*



*Pictured above are posters recognizing the event sponsors including the new option of Presenting Sponsor the 15-40 Connection, proudly presented by Columbia Tech, a Coghlin Company at the far left of the photo.*



*Pictured at right from l-r are Senator Mike Moore, State Representative Matt Beaton and event emcee Peter Blute addressing the attendees just prior to the live auction.*



# “The Man...”

CONTINUED from page 4

day with her filming photographs and memories with the intent of making a documentary. That was eight years ago.

Fast forward to May of this year. I am on the Advisory Board for Shrewsbury Media Connection and know one of their interns, Darius Corcoran, a senior at Shrewsbury High School. A recent Eagle Scout, I knew he had an interest in history: especially military history. So I asked if he'd be interested in working on a documentary that I'd been kicking around in my head for a while. He was.

Over 100 hours later, Walter J. Paton: The Man Behind The School, a 16-minute documentary on the life of Paton School's namesake, was complete. A special showing of the film took place on August 15, 2012 at the Shrewsbury Media Connection studio and in the front row, among 20 other guests, was Lt. Col. Paton's daughter, Ann and his grandson, Thomas.

It is now airing on SETV-29 and can be watched online. Go to Shrewsbury Media Connection's home page through the town website for details.

And the next time someone asks if you know who Walter J. Paton is, you'll be able to raise your hand.

# Banner Day

CONTINUED from page 5

Bilzarian, Jeannine & Ronald Boulanger, Joyce Danielson, Dillon Tree Service, Robert & Sandy Fryc, John & Lisa Girouard, Heald & Chiampa Funeral Directors, Matt & Laurie Hogan, David & Andrea Lowy, Mindy McKenzie-Hebert, Rich & Melanie Petrucci, Polar Beverages, Dr. Harold & Jean Stuart and Jason & Kathy Taylor.

The event was kicked into high gear with the Live Auction. Items auctioned included a US Open Package, a dream Orlando Vacation Package, an Afternoon of Beauty & Pampering for Four compliments of Divine Day Spa, Super Heroes - two hours of service from Town Manager Dan Morgado, Superintendent of Schools Joe Sawyer and SELCO GM Mike Hale, a Chop House Cookout Package compliments of the Worcester Restaurant Group, a Red Sox vs White Sox game with Parking, Def Leppard & Poison Concert tickets, Ocean Front Florida Get Away compliments of Jim and Marcia Smith and a Sail Boston Harbor at Sunset compliments of Becky Dalke of Keller Williams Realty.

Talented fine jewelry designer, Shrewsbury resident and parent Jennifer Briggs Jenkins of J. Briggs & Co. graciously donated a stunning, custom-designed HopeStar of Life pendant from her signature HopeStar line in celebration of life and in honor of our Presenting Sponsor's partnership with the 15-40 Connection, valued at \$2,440.00.

Host committee members Maribeth Boisvert, Brenda Buckley, Sarah Cole Camerer, Beth Casavant, Christa Duprey, Maureen Harrington, Hannah Kane, Kathleen Keohane, Steve Levine, Heather Logrippo, Debra Page Mooney, Maria Munro, Kimberly Nobrega, Melanie Petrucci and Caroline Schultz wishes to thank everyone who took part in this fabulous event. If you were unable to attend event but would like to make a tax deductible donation, please visit the Garden Party website at [www.shrewsburygardenparty.com](http://www.shrewsburygardenparty.com). You may also send a check made payable to Shrewsbury Public Schools Foundation c/o Hannah Kane, 32 Main Circle, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. Please contact Hannah Kane at [hkanemcpc@gmail.com](mailto:hkanemcpc@gmail.com) for further information.

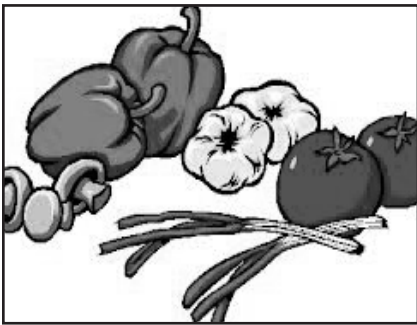
Last, mark your calendars for Saturday, June 15 for next year's Celebration in the Garden Party benefitting Shrewsbury Public Schools.

# Back-to-school meal options

BETH NICHOLS  
DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES

This Fall, Shrewsbury Public School cafeterias are meeting tough new federal nutrition standards for school meals, ensuring that meals are healthy and well-balanced and provide students all the nutrition they need to succeed at school. Now is a great time to encourage your kids to choose school lunch!

School meals offer students milk, fruits and vegetables, proteins and grains, and they must meet strict limits on saturated fat and portion size. Starting in School Year 2012-



2013, school lunches will meet additional standards requiring:

Age-appropriate calorie limits

Larger servings of vegetables and fruits (students must take at least one serving of produce)

A wider variety of vegetables, including dark green and red/orange vegetables and legumes

Fat-free or 1% milk (flavored milk must be fat-free)

More whole grains

And less sodium

We're always working to offer students healthier and tastier choices.

To find out more about new regulations about school meals visit our website: [www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools) under Food Service Department.

Please visit our web page on the Shrewsbury Home Page website at [www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools) for forms, menus and Food Service information.

## Breakfast Program

A Breakfast Program is offered daily at the High School, Oak and Sherwood Middle Schools, before the school day begins. Breakfast is not served at the Elementary Schools. A variety of cereals, fruits, morning breads, yogurts, juice and milk are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA requirements for good nutrition. The cost of breakfast is \$1.50. Families with financial need may qualify for a reduced price breakfast at \$.30 or a free breakfast.

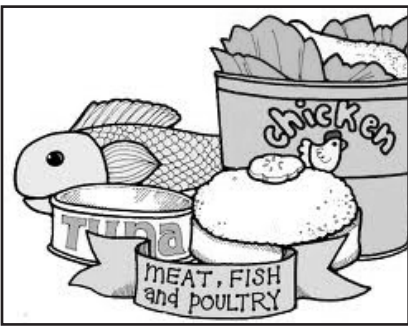
## Lunch Program

A Lunch Program is offered daily at all schools. A minimum of four entrees is offered daily. In addition a variety of sandwiches, milks, 100% juices, fruits, vegetables and a salad bar are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA nutritional guidelines. The cost of lunch is \$3.00 at the Elementary Schools, \$3.25 at the Middle Schools and \$3.50 at the High School. Lunch Tickets left over from the 2011-2012 school year can be used at the appropriate schools.

## Kindergarten Snack Program

A kindergarten snack program is available to Full Day Students.

Both a snack and a beverage are delivered to your child's classroom daily. The cost of the snack and beverage is \$125.00 for the year.



High School Meals to Go

An after hour meal program is available daily for students. Students must order their meal by 8AM of the day the meal is requested. Bag Meals include a sandwich, beverage, snack and fruit. Bagged Meals cost \$4.00. Order forms are available at the school store, the cafeteria and in

## the serving area.Free and Reduced Breakfast/Lunch Applications

Free and Reduced price meals are available to students if there is financial need. Applications are available on line at: [www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools) under the Food Ser-



vice Department pages Applications must be submitted each school year by October 1st to continue eligibility. Applications will be accepted for new applicants at time as the need arise for families. If you need an application at any time during the year call the Food Service Office at 508-841-8819 and one will be mailed to you or visit our web pages at: [www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools). Eligibility is governed by guidelines set by the Federal Government. A written notification will be sent to all families stating what program they qualify for.

## Menus

The menu is posted on the Shrewsbury Home Page website at [www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools) under Food Service Department. The Food Service is committed to serving what is on the printed menu

## Prepaid Breakfast Plan

The Prepaid Breakfast Plan is available for the 2012-2013 school year. Breakfast will be served at the Middle Schools and High School. Breakfast is not offered at the Elementary Schools. Full Price Breakfast costs \$1.50 and Reduced Price Breakfast costs \$.30. Books of 20 Full Price Breakfast tickets cost \$30.00. Books of 20 Reduced Price Breakfast tickets cost \$6.00 Breakfast tickets are pink and can be

CONTINUED, see page 7

# Student achievement at SHS

## Service Learning

High school Community Service Learning Coordinator, Mrs. Dawn Vigliatura, has finalized the total number of volunteer hours conducted by students toward the 10,000 Hour Challenge during last school year. The total number of volunteer hours logged by students during the 2011-2012 school year was 11,776! The graduating Class of 2012 conducted over 5,200 hours of service. Additionally, The Class of 2013 and Class of 2014 both met their required hours for the Service Learning 10,000 Hour Challenge! The Class of 2013 volunteered a total of 3,388.5 hours, while the Class of 2014 completed 2,269 hours of service. The Class of 2015, completed 907.5 hours, just a little shy of their 1,000 hour goal.

The 10,000 Hour Challenge is a program developed by the Class of 2012

to encourage and promote service and volunteerism in our community. The Challenge asks students in each class to conduct volunteer service within our community with the long-term goal of having each class contribute 10,000 hours of service by the time they graduate. The basic structure of the Challenge calls for the senior class to conduct 4,000 hours; the junior class to conduct 3,000 hours; the sophomore class 2,000 hours and the freshman class to conduct 1,000 hours. The Community Service and Learning Coordinator and Advisory Board maintains a display case on the second floor that showcases our students' accomplishments and lists opportunities for students to volunteer in our community.

## Performing Arts Award

Congratulations to the Performing Arts Department!

The cast and crew from last year's fall production, The Outsiders, have been selected to receive the Moss Hart Memorial Award in the secondary division from the New England Theatre Convention. The Moss Hart award is awarded by professional adjudicators from New England Theatre Convention who attend numerous theatre productions throughout New England who critique, rank, and acknowledge shows that present affirmative views of human courage and dignity, that have strong literary and artistic merit, and which in their productions, exemplify fresh, imaginative, creative treatment within the intent of the playwright. Ms. Jenn Webb, Drama teacher and play director, will be officially presented with this award during their annual awards banquet held in late October. The school and show will be represented on the NETC website after that date.



# The importance of MVP's

SEAN LAMBERT  
SHS SENIOR AND MVP ADVISORY  
BOARD MEMBER

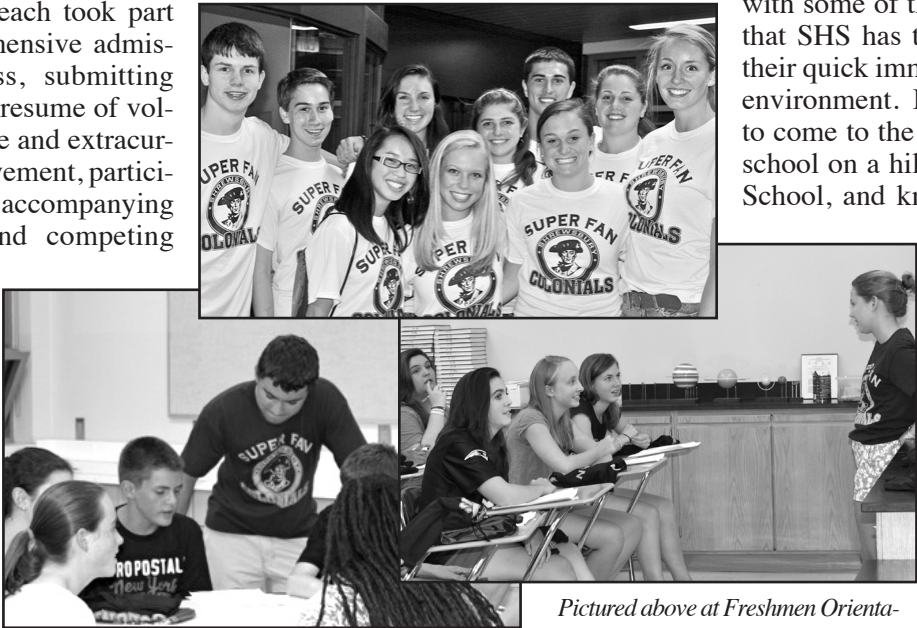
In May of this year over two hundred juniors and seniors applied for membership in one of Shrewsbury High School's most competitive, entrenched, and influential organizations: the Mentor Volunteer Program. They each took part in a comprehensive admissions process, submitting an extensive resume of volunteer service and extracurricular involvement, participating in an accompanying interview, and competing to prove that they were the absolute best that SHS had to offer -- quite a difficult feat. The most academic, athletic, and artistic 200 upperclassmen in the high school were competing for only 80 slots. Although there is an abundance of talent, this highly selective program regrettably cannot support a 200 person mentoring staff. It's a shame, because these applicants are really something. The candidates were evaluated

by the ten appointed members of the Advisory Board, a group of 12th graders who help to shape the selection process and then guide the mentors' activities over the course of the year, and by Mrs. Rice of guidance and Mrs. Prior of the math department, the faculty commanders-in-chief of the program. Each application was given

prepared through a special course over the summer, and disseminated into freshmen homerooms once every seven school days. Our MVPs provide the freshmen with guidance, helping them to acclimatize to the school, showing them their way to class and sitting with them at lunch. Most importantly, MVPs provide freshmen with some of the best role models that SHS has to offer, facilitating their quick immersion in their new environment. It's quite a change to come to the big, imposing high school on a hill from Oak Middle School, and knowing that among the giant seniors occupying air-space as they walk from class to class is a friend really makes a difference to the incoming ninth graders. A success story shared among those on the Advisory Board is that of a freshman who was stuck at a party where he felt unsafe and unsure how to get home. He called

his MVP, who had given his phone number to his freshman homeroom. The newcomer to the high school was picked up and taken home safe and sound. Our

CONTINUED at bottom right



*Pictured above at Freshmen Orientation at top are members of the MVP Advisory Board. In the back row from left-right are Brendan Hastings, Sean Lambert, Nicole Rapp, Jess Morana, Sean Teebagy, Kelsey Shea and front row l-r: Emily Cryan, Morgan McCarthy, Julie Mannina and Katie Kneece. In the middle photo is Senior MVP Megan Horan talking to students about expectations, rules and offering general information, and the bottom left photo shows Junior MVP Justin Kearns offering guidance to incoming freshmen regarding their class*

a thorough reading by the Advisory Board and the program's creators. The eighty students finally chosen are some of the most focused, friendly, and involved members of the school community. They were split up into groups of five or six,

# Meal Options

CONTINUED from page 6

used at the Middle or High School. To purchase tickets send a self addressed stamped envelope along with your check for the number of books requested to: Shrewsbury School Food Service, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. Tickets will be mailed back to you. Tickets are non-refundable.

High School and Middle School Tickets may also be purchased by High School and Middle School Students at the cafeteria registers during lunch and breakfast.

### Prepaid Lunch Plan

The Prepaid Lunch Plan is available for the 2012-2013 school year. Meals at the Elementary Schools cost \$3.00. Books of 20 - lunch tickets can be purchased for \$60.00. Tickets for the Elementary Schools are orange. Meals at the Middle Schools cost \$3.25. Books of 20 -\$3.25 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$65.00. Tickets for the Middle Schools are yellow. Meals at the High School cost \$3.50. Books of 20-\$3.50 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$70.00. Tickets for the High School are green.

To purchase tickets send a self addressed stamped envelope along with your check for the number of books requested to: Shrewsbury School Food Service, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. Tickets will be mailed back to you. Tickets are non-refundable.

Tickets may also be purchased by High School Students at the High School cafeteria registers during lunch and breakfast and by Middle School Students at the Middle School cafeteria registers during lunch and breakfast.

Reduced priced tickets are only available through the mail they are not sold at the registers.

### Food Service Department Contacts

Please contact the Food Service Department with any questions, suggestions, or ideas. The Food Service Department is located at Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. The telephone number for the Food Service Director, Beth Nichols is 508 -841-8819. Each school site has a manager also available to speak with you. The numbers are as follows.

Beal	841-8874
Coolidge	841-8889
Floral St	841-8723
Paton	841-8635
Spring St	841-8708
Sherwood	841-8681
Oak	841-1217
High School	841-8848

# MVP's

CONTINUED from top left

program prides itself on such successes, and boasts "an integral way to build a unified school," as Mrs. Prior, co-founder and head of the program notes. Created and managed by staff, but coordinated and executed by students with a detailed formula for setting kids on the right track, it's no wonder the Mentor Volunteer Program has so much hype here at the school (we even get our own special set of Superfan t-shirts.) We pride ourselves on the fact that the MVP program is run by the students, for the students. Every single freshman gets to spend a year with a group of upperclassmen specially trained to navigate the unfamiliar waters of ninth grade. In fact, they are the ones who made the map.

# 2012-2013 school calendar

AUG/SEP		23 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
27	28	29	30	31
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

JANUARY		21 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

MAY		22 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER		21 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

FEBRUARY		15 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	

JUNE		9 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21

NOVEMBER		17 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MARCH		21 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER		15 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

APRIL		17 Days		
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

August/September	
8/28	Students Return/Full Day
9/3	Labor Day/No School
October	
10/5	Professional Development Day/No School
10/8	Columbus Day/No School
November	
11/6	Parent Conferences/No School
11/12	Veterans Day/No School
11/21-23	Thanksgiving Vacation
December	
12/24 -1/1	December Vacation
January	
1/8	Prof. Development Day/ Early Release
1/21	M.L. King Day/No School
February	
2/18	Presidents Day/No School
2/19 -2/22	Winter Vacation
March	
3/5	Prof. Development Day/Early Release
April	
4/9	Prof. Development Day/Early Release
4/15	Patriots Day/No School
4/16 -19	Spring Vacation
May	
5/24	Last Day for Seniors
5/27	Memorial Day/No School
5/30	Graduation Day
June	
6/11	Last Day for Kindergarten
6/13	Last Day/Half Day for Students



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**Shrewsbury Selectmen Henry Fitzgerald, Moira Miller, James Kane, Maurice DePalo, and John Lebeaux**

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